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CCTV Field Report — Systems, Components, Accessories p. 29

A CAHNERS PUBLICATION

JULY 1991

SECURITY

THE MAGAZ *SECURITY DECISION MAKERS*

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Edward A. Volpe
Life Safety Director
Pacific Gas & Electric

SECURITY®

THE MAGAZINE FOR SECURITY DECISION MAKERS

A CAHNERS PUBLICATION/VOLUME 28, NUMBER 7/JULY 1991

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EDITORIAL

Discussion of timely security matters.

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"Reform" Shouldn't Harm Employers

Among its screening methods, Electronic Data Systems Corp. (EDS) checks credit histories, denying employment when appropriate. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says it failed to follow Federal requirements to notify candidates affected. In a late May settlement, EDS agreed to fine-tune its practices.

James R. Wiggins Jr. lost his job thanks to a credit check. The credit reporting service had mixed him up with James Jay Wiggins, who had the drug record. Last month, the right Wiggins complained to Congress.

Business has widened use of credit reporting services for job screening. And use matches expanding complaints about privacy, accuracy and fairness leveled against credit reporting firms and employers.

FTC says credit reports are now its top headache. It wants stiffer regulations. Members of Congress are elbowing each other with proposals to amend the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Security also sees a problem. National Council of Investigation and Security Services President Bruce Hulme lists "public and government concern over invasion of privacy" as one of his top worries. The credit reporting industry is dominated by TRW Inc., Equifax Inc. and Trans Union Corp., which feed 1,100 local bureaus, and work with about 200 "superbureau" go-betweens. Denying high rates of errors, they've hired Arthur Andersen to check credit file accuracy.

Still, observers believe reform is inevitable. Employers, caught between hiring edicts and negligence suits, must demand that change won't further hinder job screening but instead ensure information is correct, easily accessible and used fairly.

Bill Zalud

Editor

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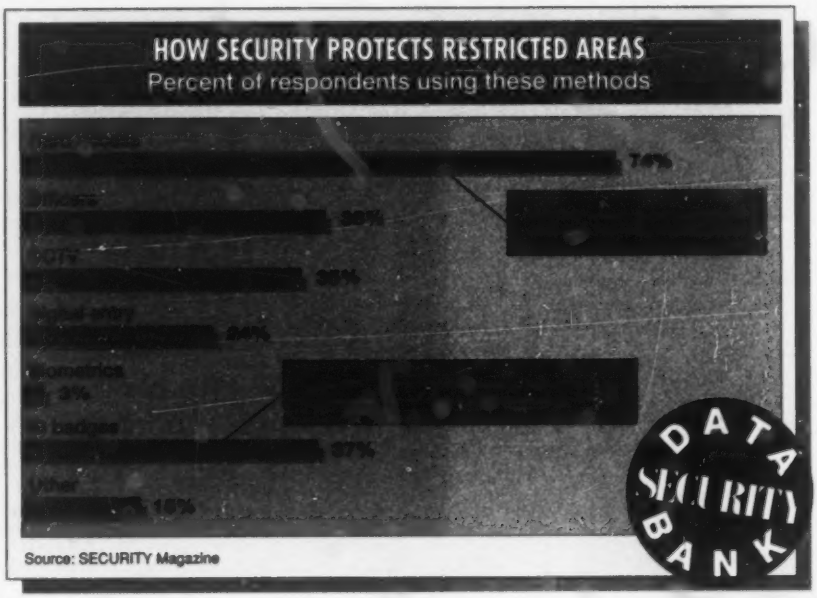
SECURITY INDICATORS

Trends and forecasts for determining loss prevention needs.



Nearly three-quarters of organizations choose card readers for access control. Many combine card access, officers and CCTV to restrict employees from secured areas.

ACCESS CONTROL

It's in the Cards: Card Access Systems Win Zone Protection Competition

Buying patterns among card access clients show that users are confident they've been dealt a winning hand.

Products ranging from ID cards to biometric devices lag far behind card access when it comes to restricting personnel from sensitive areas, says SECURITY Magazine's Second Quarterly Telephone Survey. Card access users invest considerable resources in these tools: More than 50 percent employ at least 20 readers.

At least 75 percent of industry, finance and government respondents use cards and readers to secure areas. With the exception of retail, all responding segments most often choose card access systems to restrict employee access. One- and two-door card reader systems, however, most likely appeal to retail. Among retail respondents, badges are the most popular way to identify authorized employees.

Organizations which employ at least 10,000 people are most likely to invest in card access systems. Firms with fewer than 500 employees frequently count on security officers to restrict personnel from sensitive areas.

Tried and true locks and keys continue as a popular access control choice. Sophisticated man-trap systems and barricades also prohibit employee access among a minority of respondents.

Most organizations — 66 percent — require employees to wear ID badges at all times. It's no surprise that institutions most often demand personnel compliance in this area. Firms employing more than 500 people most often advocate continuous ID badge wear.

Instant photo ID badges remain most popular among badge users. Firms increasingly issue photo ID badges which double as electronic access control cards.

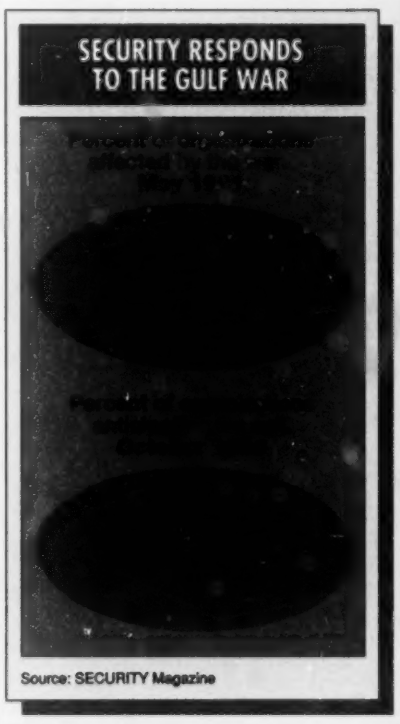
GULF WAR

Gulf War's Impact Exceeds Expectations

Most security decision makers conducted business as usual prior to the United Nations' January 15 peace deadline.

After that deadline, however, there was action. SECURITY Magazine's 1991 Second Quarterly Telephone Survey finds that more than half of all respondents implemented war-related procedural changes. Surprisingly, industry — as opposed to government — generated the most change.

An October 1990 SECURITY Magazine survey found that, on average, just 38 percent of respondents expected mounting Middle East unrest to affect security procedures or staffing at their organizations. Government respondents registered highest concern over the situation's impact, at 57 percent.



The Gulf War prompted extra precautions among businesses.

HOSPITALS

Theft Prohibits Optimum Hospital Operation

Conditions are ripe for both healing and stealing in hospitals across America.

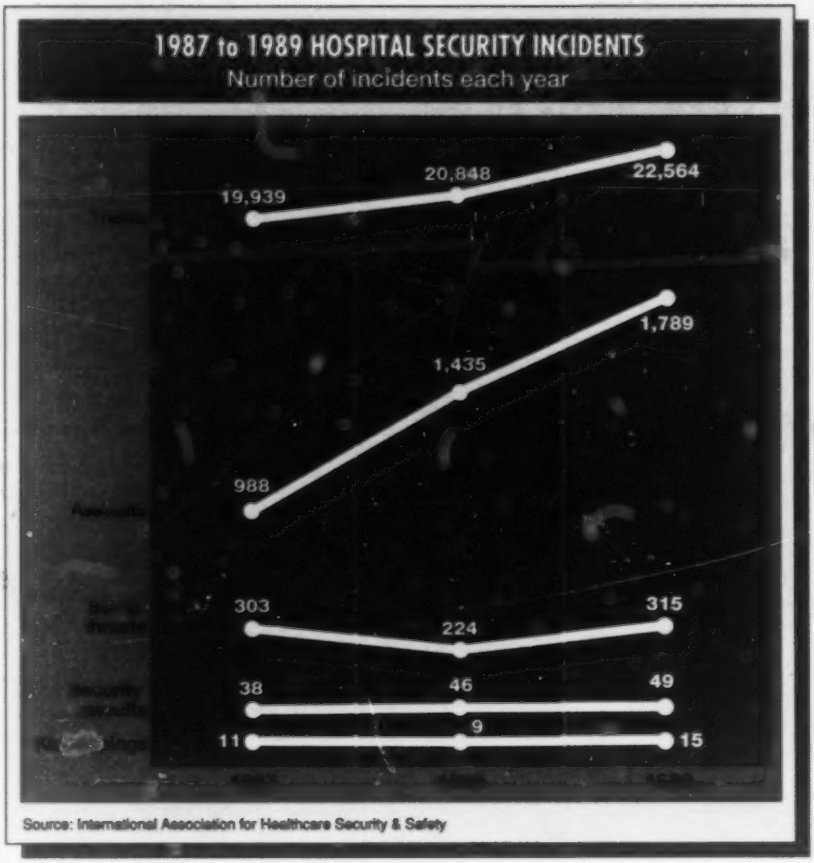
The latest hospital crime statistics compiled by the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety (IAHSS), Lombard, Ill., lists more than 22,500 thefts among 286 responding institutions in 1989.

Thieves pursue hospital supplies as well as employees' and patients' personal belongings, says Ronald Cundiff, CHPA, CPP, director of security and lobby services, Childrens' Memorial Hospital, Chicago.

"Theft costs hospitals $3,000 per bed per year," Cundiff tells SECURITY Magazine. "Linens, scrubs and drugs are high-theft items. Theft among employees increases when the school year begins and at Christmas — suddenly lots of office supplies are missing."

Access control is a growing priority for hospitals. Infant and child abduction poses an increasing, high-visibility threat. Although homicide, arson and sexual assault incidents decreased in 1989, violence is a major concern among decision makers.

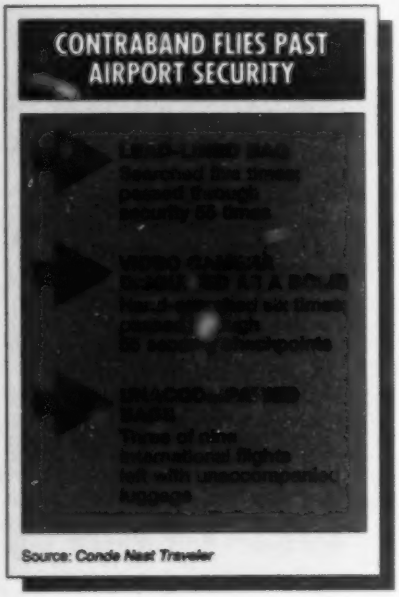
Turn to this issue's EQUIPMENT FOCUS to learn about anti-abduction electronic surveillance products.



Theft remains the most widespread hospital security problem. Hospitals report violent crimes, security lawsuits and kidnappings less frequently.

TERRORISM

Reporters Defeat, Evade Negligent Airport Security



"There is little evidence of security at U.S. airports," writes Gary Stoller, associate news editor, *Conde Nast Traveler*.

Stoller, along with 11 other reporters and two airport security consultants, set out in late 1990 to test security procedures at 10 major airports in the United States, Europe and the Far East. Security effectiveness at American hubs scored lowest. Stoller conducted a similar investigation after the Lockerbie disaster in 1988; he notes few security improvements in the last two years.

Stoller and his traveling investigative team witnessed a "disturbing" lack of professionalism and procedural integrity among airport security personnel worldwide.

"Poorly motivated, ill-trained, low-paid screeners have little interest in their jobs," Stoller tells SECURITY Magazine. "They don't watch as people walk through metal detectors and they ignore suspicious items which the X-ray equipment finds."

Reward or incentive programs for screeners who discern suspicious objects are a key to improving performance, Stoller says.

BUSINESS CRIME INDEX